

## CHILD WELFARE AGENCY PUBLIC DISCLOSURE FORM

**Date:** June 14, 2016

**Agency Name:** Washoe County Department of Social Services

**Agency Address:** P.O. Box 11130

**Date of written notification to the Division of Child and Family Services and Legislative**

**Auditor:** November 10, 2015

**Internal reference UNITY ID or Report Number:** Case #1367809, Report # 1675890

**Type of Report:** ☐ 48 Hour Notice ☐ 15 Day Update ☐ 30 Day Update ☒ Final

☒ **Child Fatality** **Date of Death:** November 8, 2015

☐ **Near Fatality** **Date of Near Fatality:**

☐ **Portions of information on this form have been withheld at the request of**  
law enforcement.

(Name of agency)

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### Information for Release:

**A. Date of the notification to the child welfare agency of the death of a child:**

November 8, 2015

**B. Location of child at the time of death or near fatality (city/county):**

Washoe County, Nevada

**C. A summary of the report of abuse or neglect and a factual description of the contents of the report:**

Infant was found non-responsive in her home after the mother reports she fed her, burped her and put her down to sleep on the bed. When the father checked on her a short time later she was non responsive. A call was placed to 911 and CPR was initiated. Child was pronounced dead at the hospital.

**D. The date of birth and gender of child:**

August 21, 2015 – female child

**E. The date that the child suffered the fatality or near fatality:**

November 8, 2015

**F. The cause of the fatality or near fatality, if such information has been determined:**

Final autopsy opinion indicates the cause of death in this 2 month old infant is undetermined after autopsy, scene investigation and toxicology. The cause of the rib fractures is unknown, but rib fractures are extremely rare in infants and warrant further investigation. Suffocation cannot be excluded. The manner of death is undetermined.

- G. Whether the agency had any contact with the child or a member of the child's family or household before the fatality or near fatality and, if so:** (1) The frequency of any contact or communication with the child or a member of the child's family or household before the fatality or near fatality and the date on which the last contact or communication occurred before the fatality or near fatality;
- (2) Whether the agency which provides child welfare services provided any child welfare services to the child or to a member of the child's family or household before or at the time of the fatality or near fatality;
- (3) Whether the agency which provides child welfare services made any referrals for child welfare services for the child or for a member of the child's family or household before or at the time of the fatality or near fatality;
- (4) Whether the agency which provides child welfare services took any other actions concerning the welfare of the child before or at the time of the fatality or near fatality; and
- (5) A summary of the status of the child's case at the time of the fatality or near fatality, including, without limitation, whether the child's case was closed by the agency which provides child welfare services before the fatality or near fatality and, if so, the reasons that the case was closed.

1/6/11 – Allegation of neglect to include the mother leaving the kids unattended or with young babysitters while she “parties”. The allegation was investigated and unsubstantiated.

1/21/11 – Allegation of lack of supervision by the mother. The report was investigated and substantiated.

1/31/11- A report was received with additional details of lack of supervision of the children. Children were left with grandmother who intended to seek a guardianship of them. Report was coded an Information Only

3/28/11- A report was received alleging that mom is a substance abuser and watched her son be sexually assaulted and failed to take action. The report was investigated and found to be unsubstantiated. Parenting referrals were provided and the safety support of the aunt and the grandmother were utilized.

10/31/11- Report was received with alleged drug use by the mother, inadequate food and lack of supervision. This report was investigated and unsubstantiated.

1/11/12 – Report received with allegations of on-going substance abuse, children being left with inappropriate caregivers and general neglect of the children's needs. This report was substantiated. The children were placed into protective custody for a short time and then released to their father. The mother failed to engage in services and was incarcerated at the time of case closure, with the children safe at their respective fathers.

8/21/13 – Report received alleging possible criminal activity at the mother's residence. The report was screened out and coded as information only.

9/3/13- Report was received alleging prior possible sexual abuse of the oldest child. Child was interviewed with no disclosure. Referrals for counseling provided and report was coded as Information and Referral.

3/7/14 – Report received alleging that the oldest siblings are abusive to the youngest child and the adults don't intervene in the altercations until the child starts to cry. Referral was coded as Information and Referral

8/25/15- Report received regarding the birth of twin babies to mom. One baby tested clean and one baby tested positive for amphetamines. Mother denies drug use but has a lengthy history of substance abuse. Report was assigned for investigation. The allegations were unsubstantiated and the case was awaiting supervisor approval for closure when the fatality report came in.

**H. Whether the agency which provides child welfare services, in response to the fatality or near fatality:** (1) Has provided or intends to provide child welfare services to the child or to a member of the child's family or household; and (2) Has made or intends to make a referral for child welfare services for the child or for a member of the child's family or household; and (3) Has taken or intends to take any other action concerning the welfare and safety of the child or any member of the child's family or household.

The investigation has concluded as unsubstantiated. The other children in the home have been deemed safe and the case has closed. Grief and loss resources have been provided as well as recommendations for substance abuse treatment/counseling.

#### NON-DISCLOSURE NOTICE

The following information must not be released (see Policy on Public Disclosure of Child Fatality and Near Fatality Information, page 4): 1) Information regarding the sibling(s) of a deceased child; 2) the name of the reporting party or individual making an allegation or referral will not be released; 3) if the disclosure of the information would adversely affect any pending investigation concerning a report (NRS 432B.290(3)); 4) if the disclosure violates other federal or state law, including, but not limited to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), Family Educational and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA), alcohol and drug abuse patient records (42 USC §290dd-2 and 42 CFR §212 (c)(6)), and any other applicable law.

